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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 679
By Walker

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mrs. Debra Kay Wyatt
Hall Kokes.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those people who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Debra Kay Wyatt Hall Kokes is one such estimable person who has served with probity for thirty years with the Art Circle Public Library in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Cumberland County High School in 1970, Debra Kay Wyatt began her career in September of 1971 at the library as an assistant to the librarian, Mrs. Sada Eldridge; after Mrs. Eldridge's retirement and after several years of changes within the library staff, Debbie accepted the position of Head Librarian in April of 1984; and

WHEREAS, over those thirty years of experience at the Art Circle Public Library, Debbie has seen and been a positive part of many of the changes that have taken place, thus progressively helping a small town library grow to become the largest library in the Caney Fork

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Region. When she began her career with the library in 1971, Cumberland County had 20,733 residents; since that time the population has more than doubled to 46,802 in 2001; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the Art Circle Public Library collection consisted of approximately 3,400 books; the current collection is 41,265, with almost 104,000 visitors to the library annually, who check out more than 133,000 books; and

WHEREAS, during Mrs. Kokes' august tenure, a new building was built to house the current library; the considerable structure housing the large collection of books is 8,895 square feet and is the home of five full-time staff, five part-time staff, and volunteer helpers; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Debra Kokes attended Tennessee Technological University and the University of Tennessee sponsored Tennessee Public Library Management Institute; she has attended numerous State-sponsored workshops presented annually by the Caney Fork Regional Library, Leadership and Supervisory Workshops, is an active participant in the annual LaVergne Public Library's Workshop for Children's Librarians and Educators of Young Children, and has participated in Technology and Computer Workshops; and

WHEREAS, she has developed a very active Friends of the Library in Crossville and has always worked to add additional services to the library, by applying for, and receiving, grant funds for materials and services for the community; Mrs. Kokes has been very active with the Children and Young Adult Round Table for the Tennessee Library Association and has been a member of the 2001 Summer Reading Program Team, touring the state with the Summer Reading Program Workshop; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Debbie Kokes attributes her success to her "great staff that shares her hopes and dreams for the library and for the wonderful, dependable volunteers that have helped to provide a quality service to the library's patrons"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kokes exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kokes is an active and important part of the community and her profession, participating in numerous professional, community, and civic organizations, including the Art Circle, of which she is the 2002 incoming President, the East Tennessee Library Association, the Tennessee Library Association, and the American Library Association; she also lends her creative support to the Crossville Arts Council, of which she serves as Secretary, and the Cumberland County Historical and Genealogical Society, which she serves as Vice President; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Kokes also contributes her time and numerous talents to the Cumberland County Personnel Committee, the Cumberland County Literacy Council as its current Vice President, Volunteers, Inc., the Sons of Confederate Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, and Rotary International; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kokes is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Gordon K. Kokes; she is the proud parent of daughter Abby Jo Hall Reagan, wife of Adam Jacob Reagan, and the loving grandmother of Dakota (Cody) Jacob Reagan; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career of thirty years with the Art Circle Public Library, Mrs. Kokes has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her peers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we recognize and thank Mrs. Debra Kay Wyatt Hall Kokes for her august service to the good people of Cumberland County and to this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.